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(54) **COSMETIC PREPARATION**

(57) A cosmetic preparation containing as the essential ingredient at least 1 wt.% of hydrofluoro ether which has a viscosity lower than 5 mPa · s at 25°C and is represented by the general formula(1): $C_nH_mF_lO-C_xH_yF_z$ wherein n is a number of 1 to 12; m is a number of 0 to 25; l is a number of 0 to 11; $m+1=2n+1$; x is a number of 1 to 12; y is a number of 0 to 25; z is a number of 0 to 11; and $y+z=2x+1$ (provided that not both of m and y are zero and not both of l and z are zero at the same time). The cosmetic preparation does not destroy the environment, is highly safe for the skin, and has an improved feeling in use.

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Description

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- 5 [0001] The present invention relates to a cosmetic comprising hydrofluoroether (abbreviated hereinafter into "HFE") having a viscosity of less than 5 mPa · s at 25°C which is a fluorine-containing solvent causing no environmental disruption and being highly safe for the skin. The HFE is characterized by these properties as well as by high solubility in fluorine-containing oil having a viscosity of at least 5 mPa · s at 25°C and high dispersibility in a fluorine compound-treated powder.

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RELATED ART

- [0002] In recent years, cosmetics incorporating volatile solvents such as isoparaffin and cyclic silicone are frequently used. These volatile solvents have the advantage that upon application there is a refreshing feeling and their solubility is high, and their use can easily improve the feeling of cosmetics in use and increase the functionality thereof. However, isoparaffin and cyclic silicone severely irritate the skin and have the problem of their adverse influence on the environment after volatilization.

- 15 [0003] Fluorocarbons such as perfluorohexane, chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) and hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) have also been examined as substitutes for these solvents. Because the ozone depletion coefficient and warming coefficient of these solvents are high, there is the disadvantage that they are highly dangerous owing to environmental disruption.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- 25 [0004] As a result of the intense study for solving the problem described above, the present inventors found that a partially fluorinated fluorine-containing solvent the HFE, is highly safe for the skin and has less or no influence on the environment. In addition to the properties described above, the HFE has high solubility in a fluorine-containing oil used frequently in recent cosmetics and high dispersibility in fluorine compound-treated powders, thus easily permitting improvements in the feeling of cosmetics upon use, and giving a high functionality.

- 30 [0005] The present invention provides a cosmetic comprising at least 1% by weight of the HFE having a viscosity of less than 5 mPa · s at 25°C, represented by the general formula (1):



- 35 wherein n is a number of 1 to 12, m is a number of 0 to 25, l is a number of 0 to 11, $m + l = 2n + 1$, x is a number of 1 to 12, y is a number of 0 to 25, z is a number of 0 to 11, and $y + z = 2x + 1$, provided that m and y are not be simultaneously zero, and l and z are not be simultaneously zero.

- [0006] The cosmetic of the present invention serve as a finishing cosmetic such as foundation, face powder, cheek color and eye color, a fundamental cosmetic such as face lotion, milky lotion, cream and sunscreen milky lotion, and hair-caring products such as rinse and conditioner, and lipstick overcoat.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- [0007] Preferably, the HFE is of the general formula (1'):

45



wherein n is a number of 1 to 12, and x is a number of 1 to 12.

- [0008] In the formulas (1) and (1'), n may be e.g. 1 to 10, particularly 1 to 6, and x may be e.g. 1 to 10, particularly 1 to 6.

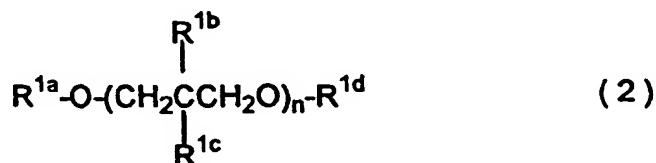
- 50 [0009] Specific examples of the HFE include:



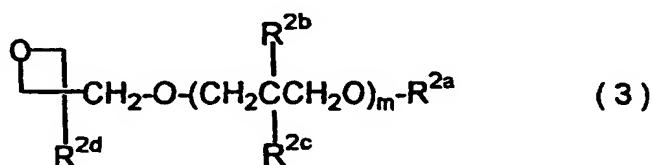
- 55 [0010] The HFE may be incorporated alone into the cosmetic or may be used as a mixture of at least two types. The amount of the HFE is at least 1% by weight, for example 1 to 99.9% by weight, preferably 5 to 99% by weight, particularly 10 to 99% by weight, based on the cosmetic. The cosmetic comprising the HFE can be produced in a conventional manner.

[0011] The HFE is advantageously superior in the ability to dissolve a fluorine-containing oil having a viscosity of at least 5 mPa · s at 25°C. By virtue of this advantage, the cosmetic having the advantage never achieved can be produced. It is preferable that at least 1% by weight of the fluorine-containing oil and at least 5% by weight of the HFE are contained in the cosmetic. For example, the amount of the fluorine-containing oil is preferably 1 to 90% by weight, particularly 5 to 50% by weight, for example 5 to 20% by weight, based on the cosmetic. For example, a weight ratio of the fluorine-containing oil to the HFE may be in the range of from 1:100 to 1:5, preferably from 1:90 to 1:10.

[0012] The fluorine-containing oil having a viscosity of at least 5 mPa · s may be, for example, a perfluoropolyether, or a fluorine-based oil represented by the general formula (2):



wherein R^{1a} and R^{1d} are each a hydrogen atom or a partially or completely fluorinated aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; R^{1b} and R^{1c} are each a hydrogen atom, or an aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a partially or completely fluorinated aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, with the proviso that at least one of R^{1a} to R^{1d} is a partially or completely fluorinated aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and n is a number of 1 to 20, or a fluorine-based oil represented by the general formula (3):



wherein R^{2a} is a hydrogen atom or a partially or completely fluorinated aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; R^{2b}, R^{2c}, and R^{2d} are each an aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a partially or completely fluorinated aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, with the proviso that at least one of R^{2a} to R^{2d} is a partially or completely fluorinated aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and m is a number of 1 to 20.

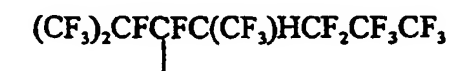
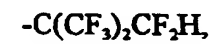
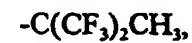
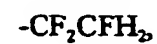
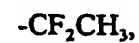
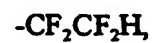
[0013] The viscosity of the fluorine-containing oil is e.g. at least 5 mPa · s, particularly 10 to 10,000 mPa · s. The viscosity of the fluorine oil (and the HFE) was measured by a Brookfield type viscometer or a capillary tube viscometer.

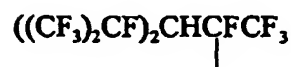
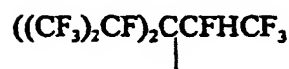
[0014] Specific examples of the perfluoropolyether include:

F(CF(CF₃)CF₂O)_nCF₂CF₃ (Krytox manufactured by Du Pont Co.);
 CF₃O(CF(CF₃)CF₂O)_n(CF₂O)_mCF₃ (Fomblin Y manufactured by Montefluos Ltd.);
 CF₃O(CF₂CF₂O)_n(CF₂O)_mCF₃ (Fomblin Z manufactured by Montefluos Ltd.); and
 F(CF₂CF₂CF₂O)_nCF₂CF₃ (Demnum manufactured by Daikin Industries, Ltd.).

[0015] A number average molecular weight of the perfluoropolyether (as determined by ¹⁹F-NMR) is preferably in the range of 1,000 to 10,000.

[0016] In the general formulas (2) and (3), if R^{1a}, R^{1b}, R^{1c}, R^{1d}, R^{2a}, R^{2b}, R^{2c} and R^{2d} are partially or fully fluorinated aliphatic groups, these may contain an oxygen atom or an unsaturated bond. The partially fluorinated aliphatic group may be e.g. R¹⁰OCH₂ group (R¹⁰ is a partially or fully fluorinated aliphatic group (e.g. alkyl group)). Examples of the partially or fully fluorinated aliphatic group are as follows:



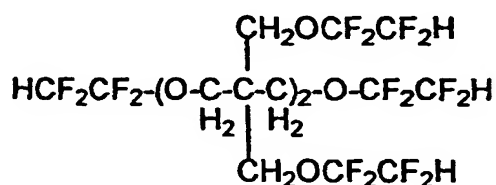
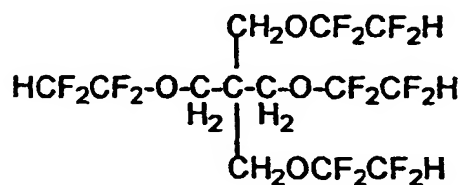


[0017] If R^{1b} , R^{1c} , R^{2b} , R^{2c} and R^{2d} are a C_1 to C_{20} aliphatic group, these may have an oxygen atom. Examples of the C_1 to C_{20} aliphatic group include an alkyl group such as methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl and t-butyl as well as a hydroxyalkyl group such as hydroxymethyl and 2-hydroxyethyl ($-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$).

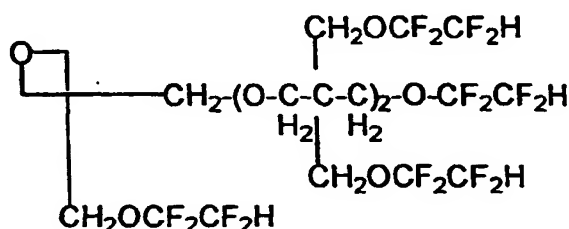
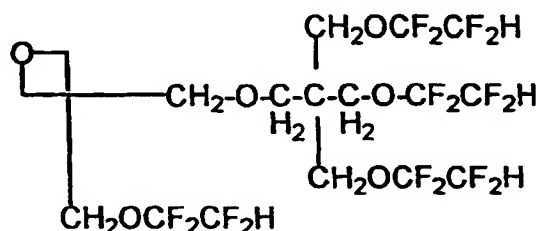
[0018] R^{1b} , R^{1c} , R^{2b} and R^{2c} in the repeating unit may be the same or different.

[0019] The number of carbon atoms in each of R^{1a} to R^{1d} and R^{2a} to R^{2d} is from 1 to 10, particularly from 2 to 4.

[0020] Specific examples of the fluorine-based oil represented by the general formula (2) are as follows:



[0021] Specific examples of the fluorine-based oil represented by the general formula (3) are as follows:

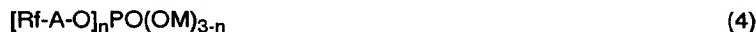


[0022] The fluorine-containing oil may be a mixture of at least two types. For example, a mixture consisting of the fluorine-based oils of the general formulas (2) and (3) at a weight ratio of from 5:95 to 95:5, for example 20:80 to 80:20, may be used as the fluorine-containing oil.

[0023] The HFE of the present invention is advantageously superior in the ability to disperse a fluorine compound-treated powder. By use of this advantage, the cosmetic having the characteristics never achieved in the past can be produced as well.

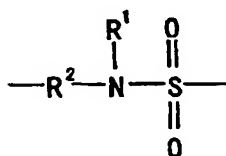
[0024] It is preferable that at least 1% by weight, based on the cosmetic, of the fluorine compound-treated powder and at least 5% by weight, based on the cosmetic, of the HFE are contained. For example, the amount of the fluorine compound-treated powder in the cosmetic is preferably 1 to 90% by weight, particularly 5 to 50% by weight, for example 5 to 20% by weight, based on the cosmetic. For example, the weight ratio of the fluorine compound-treated powder to the HFE may be in the range of from 1:100 to 1:5, preferably 1:90 to 1:10.

[0025] The fluorine compound-treated powder may be a powder which is surface-treated with a fluorine-containing phosphate ester represented, for example, by the general formula (4):

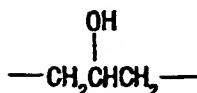


wherein

Rf represents a C₆ to C₁₆ polyfluoroalkyl group or perfluoropolyether group,
 "A" represents a C₁ to C₄ alkylene group,



(wherein R¹ is a C₁ to C₄ alkyl group and R² is a C₁ to C₄ alkylene group), or



5

wherein "M" represents a hydrogen atom, a metal atom, ammonium or substituted ammonium, and n is a number of 1 to 3.

10 [0026] A base powder to be treated includes inorganic powder such as talc, kaolin, mica, mica titanium, titanium oxide, iron oxide, magnesium oxide, zinc monoxide, zinc dioxide, heavy or light calcium carbonate, dibasic calcium phosphate, aluminum hydroxide, barium sulfate, silica, alumina, silica gel, carbon black, antimony oxide, magnesium silicate aluminate and magnesium metasilicate aluminate, as well as an organic powder such as protein powder, fish scale, metallic soap, polyvinyl chloride, nylon-12, microcrystalline fiber powder and tar pigment.

15 [0027] The base powder may be treated with 1 to 10% by weight, relative to the base powder, of the fluorine-containing phosphate ester. The surface treatment may be generally surface coating.

[0028] In the present invention, suitable chemicals for modifying the feeling in use may be also employed in the step of surface treatment. Examples of the chemicals for modifying the feeling of the cosmetic powder in use include lecithin, N-mono long-chain acyl basic amino acids, silicone, chitosan, collagen and wax.

20 [0029] When the fluorine compound-treated powder is incorporated into the cosmetic, at least two types of the powders may be mixed.

[0030] Furthermore, the cosmetic may simultaneously comprise three ingredients, that is, HFE, the fluorine-containing oil and the fluorine compound-treated powder. Based on the cosmetic comprising three ingredients, the HFE may be contained in an amount of 5 to 99% by weight, preferably 10 to 90% by weight, the fluorine-containing oil may be contained in an amount of 0.5 to 90% by weight, preferably 5 to 50% by weight, and the fluorine compound-treated powder may be contained in an amount of 0.5 to 90% by weight, preferably 5 to 50% by weight.

25 [0031] The cosmetic of the present invention may contain solid or semi-solid oils such as Vaseline, lanolin, ceresin, microcrystalline wax, carnauba wax, candelilla wax, higher aliphatic acids and higher alcohols; liquid oils such as squalane, liquid paraffin, ester oils, diglycerides, triglycerides and silicone oil; fluorine-containing oils such as perfluoropolyether, perfluorodecalin and perfluorooctane; water- and oil-soluble polymers, surface active agents, coloring agents such as organic dyestuffs, ethanol, preservatives, antioxidants, pigments, thickening agents, pH adjusters, perfumes, UV absorbers, humectants, blood stream promoters, coolants, sweat regulators, germicides, skin activators etc.

PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF THE INVENTION

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[0032] The examples of the present invention is described specifically, but this description does not limit the present invention.

Example 1

40

[0033] 50% by weight of a perfluoropolyether (Fomblin HC/04 manufactured by Audimont) (viscosity at 25°C: 70 mPa · s) was mixed with 50% by weight of C₄F₉OCH₃ (HFE A) (viscosity at 25°C: 0.6 mPa · s) under stirring to give a solution. Thereafter, a very small amount of a perfume was added to give a non-aqueous lotion. This non-aqueous lotion was felt very smooth in use. After the lotion was applied onto the skin, the HFE A evaporated rapidly and a uniform coating of the perfluoropolyether maintained the skin moisture.

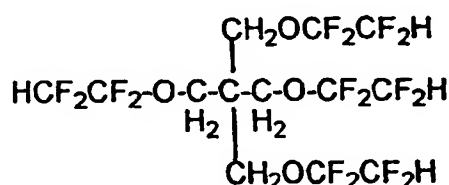
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Example 2

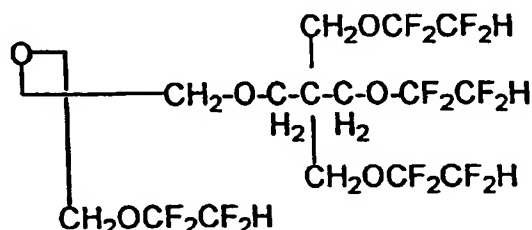
[0034] A non-aqueous lotion was obtained in the same manner as in Example 1 except that the perfluoropolyether was replaced by a mixture (A/B = 8/2 by weight) of the fluorine-containing oil (viscosity at 25°C: 35 mPa · s) represented by chemical formula A:

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55



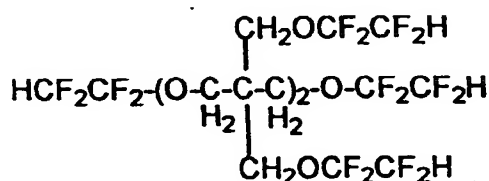
and the fluorine-containing oil (viscosity at 25°C: 40 mPa · s) represented by chemical formula B:



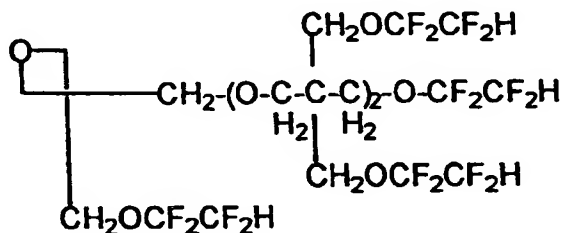
This non-aqueous location had the same properties as in Example 1.

Example 3

[0035] A non-aqueous lotion was obtained in the same manner as in Example 1 except that the perfluoropolyether was replaced by a mixture (C/D = 7/3 by weight) of the fluorine-containing oil (viscosity at 25°C: 350 mPa · s) represented by chemical formula C:



and the fluorine-containing oil (viscosity at 25°C: 400 mPa · s) represented by chemical formula D:



This non-aqueous location had the same properties as in Example 1.

[0036] In the Examples below, the mixture powder (a mixture of fluorine compound-treated powders) shown in Table 1 was used to produce a cosmetic. The fluorine compound-treated powder was prepared by treating a powder with 5% by weight of perfluoroalkyl ethyl phosphate ester diethanol amine salt $((\text{C}_9\text{F}_{19}\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n\text{P}(=\text{O})[\text{ONH}_2(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH})_2]_{3-n})$ (average of $n = 1.8$).

Table 1

| Formulation of the Mixture Powder | |
|---|-------------|
| Starting Materials | % by weight |
| (1) fluorine compound-treated titanium oxide | 8.0 |
| (2) fluorine compound-treated yellow iron oxide | 0.9 |
| (3) fluorine compound-treated red iron oxide | 0.3 |
| (4) fluorine compound-treated black iron oxide | 0.3 |
| (5) fluorine compound-treated talc | 36.1 |
| (6) fluorine compound-treated sericite | 50.6 |
| (7) fluorine compound-treated mica | 3.8 |

Example 4

[0037] The powder ingredients in the formulation shown in Table 2 were mixed and ground with an atomizer and then transferred to a Henschel mixer. Then Fomblin HC/04 was added thereto, and the mixture was uniformly mixed. The mixture was dispersed in $C_4H_9OC_2H_5$ (HFE B) (viscosity at 25°C: 0.7 mPa · s) to give a solvent dispersion-type foundation. This solvent dispersion-type foundation was felt very smooth in use. After this foundation was applied onto the skin, the HFE B evaporated rapidly, and the resulting uniform coating maintained the skin moisture.

Table 2

| Non-Aqueous Dispersion-Type Foundation | |
|--|-----------------|
| Starting Materials | Blending Amount |
| (1) mixture powder (Table 1) | 10 |
| (2) perfluoropolyether (Fomblin HC/04) | 10 |
| (3) HFE B ($C_4F_9OC_2H_5$) | 80 |

Example 5

[0038] The ingredients (1) to (8) in the formulation shown in Table 3 were mixed and ground in a colloid mill. After this mixture was heated at 80°C, the ingredients (9) to (13) which had been heated and mixed at 80°C were added thereto and emulsified uniformly in a homomixer. The ingredient (14) was added to this emulsion, further emulsified uniformly in a homomixer, and cooled to room temperature to give a liquid foundation. This liquid foundation was felt very smooth in use.

Table 3

| Liquid Foundation | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Starting Materials | Blending Amount (% by weight) |
| (1) 1,3-butylene glycol | 10.00 |
| (2) carboxymethyl cellulose | 0.20 |
| (3) aluminum magnesium silicate | 0.20 |
| (4) mixture powder (Table 1) | 14.00 |
| (5) purified water | 50.75 |

Table 3 (continued)

| Liquid Foundation | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Starting Materials | Blending Amount (% by weight) |
| (6) sodium N-stearoyl-L-glutamate | 0.75 |
| (7) potassium hydroxide | 0.40 |
| (8) p-oxybenzoate | 0.20 |
| (9) glyceryl trioctanoate | 5.00 |
| (10) diisostearyl malate | 3.00 |
| (11) stearic acid | 3.00 |
| (12) glyceride monostearate | 1.50 |
| (13) cethanol | 1.00 |
| (14) HFE D (C ₄ F ₉ OC ₄ H ₉) | 10.00 |

Example 6

[0039] The fluorine compound-treated zinc oxide as the ingredient (3) shown in Table 4 was a product prepared by treating zinc oxide with 7% by weight, based on zinc oxide, of a perfluoroalkyl ethyl phosphate ester diethanolamine salt (the same as used in Example 3).

[0040] In the formulation shown in Table 4, the ingredients (1) and (2) were mixed and dissolved at room temperature, and the ingredient (3) was added thereto and dispersed with a disper. The ingredients (4) to (9) were added thereto under stirring and emulsified with a homomixer to give a sunscreen emulsion. This sunscreen emulsion was felt very smooth in use. After this emulsion was applied onto the skin, the HFE A evaporated rapidly, and the resulting uniform coating maintained the skin moisture.

Table 4

| Sunscreen Emulsion | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Starting Materials | Blending Amount (% by weight) |
| (1) HFE A (C ₄ F ₉ OCH ₃) | 40 |
| (2) fluorine-containing oil (the same as used in Example 2) | 10 |
| (3) fluorine compound-treated zinc oxide | 5 |
| (4) dimethylpolysiloxane-polyoxyalkylene copolymer | 3 |
| (5) glycerin | 2 |
| (6) ethanol | 5 |
| (7) water | 32.9 |
| (8) octyl methoxycinnamate | 2 |
| (9) perfume | 0.1 |

Example 7

[0041] A set lotion was produced using the formulation shown in Table 5. After the ingredients (4) to (7) were dissolved, the ingredients (1) to (3) were added, moistened, and dissolved. Further, the ingredient (8) was added thereto slowly under stirring to give a set lotion. This set lotion was felt very smooth in use.

Table 5

| Set Lotion | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Starting Materials | Blending Amount (% by weight) |
| (1) polyvinyl pyrrolidone | 5 |
| (2) polyoxyethylene (20) oleylether | 5 |
| (3) 1,3-butylene glycol | 10 |
| (4) HFE B (C ₄ F ₉ OC ₂ H ₅) | 5 |
| (5) p-oxybenzoate ester | 0.1 |
| (6) colorant | Trace amount |
| (7) perfume | 0.5 |
| (8) purified water | Adjusted to 100 |

EFFECT OF THE INVENTION

[0042] The HFE causing no environmental disruption and being highly safe for the skin is incorporated into the cosmetic, thereby increasing the solubility in the fluorine-containing oil and dispersibility in the fluorine compound-treated powder. The feeling of the cosmetic in use can be improved and the functionality of the cosmetic can be increased.

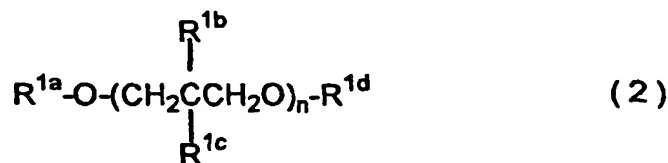
Claims

1. A cosmetic comprising at least 1% by weight of a hydrofluoroether having a viscosity of less than 5 mPa · s at 25°C, represented by the general formula (1):

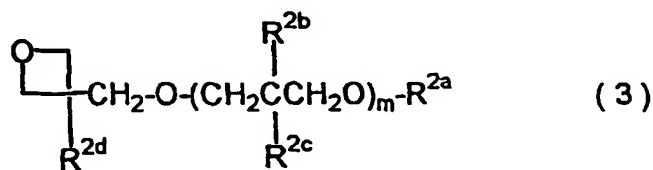


wherein n is a number of 1 to 12, m is a number of 0 to 25, l is a number of 0 to 11, $m + l = 2n + 1$, x is a number of 1 to 12, y is a number of 0 to 25, z is a number of 0 to 11, and $y + z = 2x + 1$, provided that m and y are not be simultaneously zero, and l and z are not be simultaneously zero.

2. The cosmetic according to claim 1, which comprise at least 1% by weight of a fluorine-containing oil having a viscosity of at least 5 mPa · s at 25°C and at least 5% by weight of the hydrofluoroether.
3. The cosmetic according to claim 2, wherein the fluorine-containing oil may be a perfluoropolyether, a fluorine-based oil represented by the general formula (2):



wherein R^{1a} and R^{1d} are each a hydrogen atom or a partially or completely fluorinated aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; R^{1b} and R^{1c} are each a hydrogen atom, or an aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, or a partially or completely fluorinated aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, with the proviso that at least one of R^{1a} to R^{1d} is a partially or completely fluorinated aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and n is a number of 1 to 20, or a fluorine-based oil represented by the general formula (3):



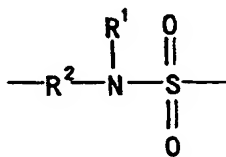
wherein R^{2a} is a hydrogen atom or a partially or completely fluorinated aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; R^{2b} , R^{2c} and R^{2d} are each an aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a partially or completely fluorinated aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, with the proviso that at least one of R^{2a} to R^{2d} is a partially or completely fluorinated aliphatic group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and m is a number of 1 to 20.

4. The cosmetic according to claim 1, which comprises at least 1% by weight of a fluorine compound-treated powder and at least 5% by weight of the hydrofluoroether.
5. The cosmetic according to claim 4, wherein the fluorine compound-treated powder is a powder surface-treated with a fluorine-containing phosphate ester represented by the general formula (4):

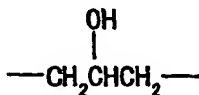


wherein

Rf represents a C_6 to C_{16} polyfluoroalkyl group or perfluoropolyether group.
 A represents a C_1 to C_4 alkylene group.



(wherein R^1 is a C_1 to C_4 alkyl group and R^2 is a C_1 to C_4 alkylene group), or



wherein M represents a hydrogen atom, a metal atom, ammonium or substituted ammonium, and n is a number of 1 to 3.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP98/03499

| A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int.Cl ⁶ A61K7/00 | | |
|--|--|---|
| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC | | |
| B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl ⁶ A61K7/00 | | |
| Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched | | |
| Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) | | |
| C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | |
| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
| X | JP, 62-249913, A (Kanebo, Ltd.), 30 October, 1987 (30. 10. 87), Full text (Family: none) | 1-3 4, 5 |
| Y | | |
| X | JP, 6-227942, A (Kao Corp.), 16 August, 1994 (16. 08. 94), Full text (Family: none) | 1 |
| Y | JP, 7-133210, A (Kao Corp.), 23 May, 1995 (23. 05. 95), Full text (Family: none) | 4, 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex. | | |
| * Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubt on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed | "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "Z" document member of the same patent family | |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search 7 October, 1998 (07. 10. 98) | | Date of mailing of the international search report 20 October, 1998 (20. 10. 98) |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office | | Authorized officer |
| Facsimile No. | | Telephone No. |

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